

loyalty and hard work in helping to make the Senate a more efficient, compatible working environment.

I thank Lula Davis, and I wish her the best in her retirement. I hope she doesn't get too far away from the Senate and that she comes back to see us once in a while to help us untangle that ball of string, as I am sure it is bound to become tangled again sometime.

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 707) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 707

Whereas Lula Davis, the Secretary for the Majority, will be retiring at the end of the 111th Congress, after a long and distinguished career;

Whereas Lula Davis was first elected as Assistant Democratic Secretary in 1997, and she was the first woman ever to hold that position;

Whereas Lula Davis was elected to be the Secretary for the Majority at the beginning of the 111th Congress, the first African American to serve in this position, and during the 111th Congress she has expertly tackled one of the toughest jobs in politics;

Whereas throughout her time in the Senate, Lula Davis has played a major role in managing the debate and passage of many significant pieces of legislation;

Whereas many legislative accomplishments over the years would not have happened without the leadership of Lula Davis;

Whereas Lula Davis lived in rural Louisiana, and worked as a teacher and guidance counselor;

Whereas Lula Davis remains committed to children in our community, founding and continuing to run a nonprofit mentoring and charitable organization called "Leadership Cares," which provides holiday meals to more than 650 families annually;

Whereas Lula Davis has encouraged many of her fellow Senate staff to volunteer alongside her family and friends to make a difference for those in need;

Whereas Lula Davis started her Senate career as a legislative aide to her home-state Senator, Russell Long, and went on to serve in almost every position on the floor staff, including office assistant, floor assistant, chief floor assistant, Assistant Secretary, and Secretary;

Whereas Lula Davis is a master of the complex formal and informal rules under which the Senate operates;

Whereas Lula Davis has consistently provided thoughtful and reliable advice to both Democratic and Republican leadership and all members of the Senate;

Whereas Lula Davis is loyal to the Senate and to Senators, and respects the traditions that make this body great;

Whereas the Senate has tremendous respect for Lula Davis and her hard work, and deeply appreciates her enormous contributions to the Senate and to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its deepest thanks to Lula Davis for her many

years of outstanding service to the United States Senate and to the United States of America.

STAR PRINT—S. 583

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 706, S. 583, reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on December 17, 2010, be star printed with the changes at the desk. An incorrect version of the committee substitute amendment was reported to the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BAYH be authorized to sign any duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Wednesday, December 22, and that Senator LINCOLN be authorized to sign any duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Thursday, December 23, and Friday, December 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, pursuant to Public Law 111-211, appoints the following individual to be a member of the Indian Law and Order Commission: Affie Ellis of Wyoming.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, after consultation with the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107-306, as amended by Public Law 111-259, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community: the Honorable MARK R. WARNER of Virginia.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, in consultation with the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the chairman of the

Senate Committee on the Judiciary, pursuant to Public Law 111-211, appoints the following individuals to be members of the Indian Law and Order Commission: Troy Eid of Colorado and Jefferson Keel of Oklahoma.

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, when we convened this Congress in January 2009, 750,000 Americans were losing their jobs every month. Soon after this Congress began, an auto industry nearly imploded, and within a year an oil well exploded. It was a tough 2 years for our Nation and for so many families. It was also a time of remarkable progress.

When this Congress began, insurance companies were free to deny health care to the sick for any excuse they could come up with. The doughnut hole that sent seniors' prescription drug costs through the roof was wide open. Wall Street firms had just crashed our economy, but they were still free to rip off investors while the Nation smoldered.

Cigarette companies could prey on children, credit card companies could prey on consumers, and con artists could prey on families' mortgages.

Employers were free to pay women less than men, the safety of our food supply was dangerously inadequate, and the definition of a hate crime was shamefully insufficient. Gay men and women who volunteered to defend and die for our country were asked to fight and die for values and principles they didn't have for themselves in America.

More than a year has passed since American inspectors were on the ground to monitor the Russian nuclear weapons arsenal.

We have turned each of these around. Because of what we did in this Congress, we brought the economy back from the brink of collapse, we cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans, we invested in important job-creating projects, and we will keep working until everyone who wants to work can find a job.

Because of what we did, families are safer from health insurance companies. Our economy and its investors are safer from big banks. Consumers are safer from credit card companies, homeowners are safer from mortgage fraud, and all of us are safer from corporate fraud.

Parents can know their children are safer from cigarette companies, thanks to legislation we passed that will save

lives. Our food safety protections will save countless more lives.

We also made historic strides for equality and justice. With a hate crimes bill that bears Emmitt Till's name, we stood up for those who are victims of violence because of their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. With a fair pay bill in Lilly Ledbetter's name, we stood up for those who are targets of discrimination in the workplace because of their gender or background. And we made right a wrong done long ago to African Americans and American Indian farmers.

Because we repealed don't ask, don't tell, our military is stronger and we can still fulfill our Nation's promise. And because we ratified the START treaty today, America and the world are safer from nuclear devastation.

These are just the ones that got the biggest headlines. The 111th Congress did much more.

We cut taxes for the middle class and small business multiple times. We made it easier for families to buy their first home. We made it easier for students to afford to go to college, and strengthened our commitment to research, math and science education, technological innovation, and maintaining this country's competitive edge. We made sure children can afford to get the health care they need no matter how much money their parents make, and made sure even more schoolchildren who would otherwise go hungry can get healthier meals.

We extended unemployment insurance for millions still struggling to find a job and extended COBRA subsidies so those still struggling to find work can feed their families, fuel our economy and afford decent medical care. We strengthened Medicaid and made sure doctors can still afford to treat seniors on Medicare. We helped hundreds of thousands afford more fuel-efficient cars and trucks.

With a national service bill named for Senator Ted Kennedy, we made it easier for more Americans to serve their country, like our heroes of generations past. With one of the most important conservation bills in decades, we protected our public lands for generations to come. We cut waste and fraud in the way the Pentagon purchases military weapons. We made sure our troops have the equipment they need on the battlefield and that our veterans have the care they need when they come home. We gave everyone in the military a well-deserved pay raise.

We secured our borders with guards, fencing, and predator drones. We imposed sanctions on Iran to deter this regime from acquiring a nuclear weapon. We thawed our credit markets so Americans can get the loans they need to buy a car, send a child to college, or even start a new business. We supported the travel and tourism industries, which will create tens of thousands of jobs and cut our deficit by hundreds of millions of dollars.

We confirmed many well-qualified nominees for positions in public service

and on the bench, including the third and fourth women—and the first ever Latina—to serve on our Supreme Court.

We began this Congress with the challenge of keeping our economy from a second Great Depression. We are not all the way out of the ditch yet. We have come a long way since President Bush's Treasury Secretary sat down with us and warned us of the dire stakes of inaction.

In 2011, we have to do even more to put middle-class families first, to create jobs and cut taxes. We will continue to move America toward energy independence. We will continue to fight to fix our broken immigration system. And we will continue fighting for fairness—including giving our first responders the same workplace rights everyone else has.

This was, by far, the most productive Congress in American history. And the lameduck session we are finishing was the most productive of its kind. Why? Because we heard the message the American people sent us last month. They do not want us to sit around and waste our time. They want us to work together and work for them. They want us to get things done.

We have been productive beyond any historical measure. But we cannot forget the context: We have had to do more with less—passing some of the most major pieces of legislation in history with the least bipartisan cooperation in history. I am sorry the minority party decided to sit on the sidelines. I know the history books will remember who was on the field.

I thank every Senator and every staffer who has worked so hard. They have worked so tirelessly over these past 2 years. The distance we took America from January 2009 to December 2010 is one of the most remarkable times in the history of the world and our country.

I am very proud of the work this Congress did, and I sincerely hope that, despite a divided Capitol, the 112th Congress will surpass only its record for significant legislation and not those for endless stalemates.

I want to express my appreciation to this wonderful staff we have here. They work so very, very hard. They are here before we arrive in the morning, they are here after we leave, and I am grateful for all they do.

The court reporters are here taking down every word that we say—very professional. The enrollment clerks. Everybody who is here. The Parliamentarians, whom we go to often to tell us the hole we are in and how to get out of it.

I am grateful for everyone here for putting up with me and the hours I feel we have to work with never a complaint. I wish I had the ability to convey what is in my heart—and I certainly don't have the ability to do that—but I want everyone here to know that I am very grateful for everyone here working in such a wonderful manner for our country.

I say to each one of you—I went through a long list of things we have been able to accomplish—we couldn't have done any of this without you. As much as I know about the rules, and I know quite a bit about the rules, I have to depend on the Parliamentarians to tell me—really, to get the real scoop. I admire what they do. They are very fine lawyers. This area of the law they know better than anyone else in the world.

Madam President, I haven't mentioned the police officers, the doorkeepers. These police officers, they are here right now as we speak. Most all in the Chamber, of course, without uniform. We have people every day without any exception wanting to do bad things to this beautiful Capitol Complex. These wonderful police officers keep this building and its inhabitants, the people who work in this building—it is not inhabitants, although I feel I live here sometimes—they keep the thousands of people who work in these Capitol buildings safe. They do such a wonderful job of taking care of us.

Chief Gainer, who is the Sergeant at Arms, is responsible for the police force. He does a wonderful job on this side of the Capitol.

Madam President, I wish you, the Presiding Officer, my dear friend, and everyone here a very happy holiday season. I wish it could have been a little longer, but it is better than a lot thought it would be.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BAYH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 1052, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1209, 1210, 1216, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, to and including 1267, and all nominations at the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Jonathan Woodson, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.